REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for granting the undersigned the interview held on January 5, 2005. In the interview, the undersigned pointed out that the band 152 in the Rowe reference does not rotate about an axis like the claimed polygonal wheel recited in claim 1 of the present invention. The Examiner mentioned that he would give further consideration to the claims in lieu of the cited prior art and perform an additional prior art search. Other comments regarding the claimed invention, which were discussed in the interview, are mentioned in item II below.

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

None of the claims are amended herein.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 and 20-25 are currently pending and under consideration in the present application.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-17 and 20-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) AS BEING UNPATENTABLE OVER ROWE (USP# 5,479,190) IN VIEW OF SIDDIQUI (USP# 5,912,661)

The present invention as recited in claim 1, relates to a coordinate input device having a polygonal wheel, which "rotate[s] about [a] first axis."

In contrast to the present invention, Rowe teaches a multi-axis continuous loop 150 including a band 152 that does not rotate. Only the grooved segments 154 of Rowe rotate. As indicated in column 8, line 8 - column 9, line 59 and FIG. 13 through FIG. 17, the grooved segments 154 are slidably mounted on band 152 and may be freely moved along the entire course of the band 152 in the direction indicated by Arrow "M." The grooved segments may also be rotated on the band 152 in the direction indicated by Arrow "R". Nothing in the disclosure of Rowe teaches or suggests that the band 152 rotates.

As mentioned in the previous response, Siddiqui teaches "a computer input device with a...wheel button type z-encoder mechanism. The wheel button is supported on an axle or spindle within the housing of the input device. The axle is supported in the housing by spaced-apart axle supports." (See Siddiqui at column 2, lines 3-8.) Siddiqui, however, does not teach "a plurality of rotating bodies" (see claim 1) and does not suggest anything related to each of the rotating bodies rotatable about the corresponding one of the plural sides of said polygonal wheel as a second axis. Thus, Rowe and Siddiqui, either alone or in combination, do not teach or

suggest the features as recited in claim 1 of the present invention.

Similar to claim 1, claims 2, 11, 12 and 22 relates to a coordinate input device having a polygonal wheel, which "rotate[s] about [a] first axis."

Claim 24 relates to a coordinate input device comprising "a polygonal wheel having plural sides to rotate in a first direction, each of the rotating bodies being rotationally attached to a corresponding one of the plural sides to rotate in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction for multi-axial coordinate input."

Claim 25 relates to a coordinate input device comprising "a polygonal wheel having rotating bodies thereon rotating in a direction perpendicular to a wheel rotation direction for multi-axial coordinate input." Therefore, claims 2, 11, 12, 22, 24 and 25 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

Claims 3-10, claims 13-17, 20 and 21, and claim 23 depend from claims 1, 11 and 22, respectively. For at least the reason that claims 1, 11 and 22 distinguish over the cited prior art, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3-10, 13-17, 20, 21 and 23 also distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection is overcome.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art, and therefore defines allowable subject matter. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection along with an indication of allowability of all pending claims are therefore respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Response, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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